

SECRET

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
SECRETARIAT

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EOB293 AN005978

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NODIS

FROM AMBASSADOR PRICE

STATE PASS WHITE HOUSE

E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, OVIP, UK, US

SUBJECT: VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER THATCHER TO WASHINGTON

REF: STATE 305732

1. - ENTIRE TEXT

2. IN A CONVERSATION I HAD WITH CHARLES POWELL, THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRIVATE SECRETARY, HE REITERATED MRS. THATCHER'S INTEREST IN A VISIT TO WASHINGTON. POWELL SAID THAT THE PM WAS THINKING SERIOUSLY ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A NOVEMBER 14-15 VISIT. SUBJECT TO THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE, SHE WOULD PLAN TO ARRIVE ON THE 14TH AND WOULD LIKE TO HELICOPTER TO CAMP DAVID FOR AN INFORMAL MEETING AND LUNCH ON SATURDAY THE 15TH (A LA DECEMBER 1984). SHE WOULD DEPART MID-AFTERNOON FOR HER RETURN TO LONDON. ONLY POWELL AND AMBASSADOR ACLAND WOULD ACCOMPANY THE PRIME MINISTER.

3. GIVEN THE ABOVE DISCUSSION, WE WILL HOLD UP ON DELIVERY OF THE SECRETARY'S LETTER TO GEOFFREY HOWE (REFTEL) UNTIL WE HEAR BACK FROM WASHINGTON ABOUT A NOVEMBER MEETING. IF ONE IS LIKELY, WE WILL THEN NEED A NEW FIRST PARAGRAPH FOR THE SECRETARY'S LETTER.

4. I FULLY UNDERSTAND THE PRESSURE ON THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE, PARTICULARLY IF THIS TURNS OUT TO BE A PRE-SUMMIT PERIOD. HOWEVER, I GATHER WE HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN WILLING TO RECEIVE THE CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT OF THE COUNTRY WHICH HOLDS THE EC PRESIDENCY; MARGARET THATCHER NOW CLEARLY WANTS TO VISIT WEARING BOTH HER HATS. A RELATED CONSIDERATION IS THAT LABOR PARTY LEADER NEIL KINNOCK PLANS TO PAY A PRIVATE VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, AND WILL NO DOUBT SEEK A PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT. WE WILL WANT TO AVOID A SITUATION IN WHICH WE APPEAR TO REBUFF THE PRIME MINISTER AND POSSIBLY END UP WITH THE OPPOSITION LEADER SEEING THE PRESIDENT, NO MATTER HOW BRIEFLY.

DECLASSIFIED

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BY LBJ NARA DATE 8/4/08

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5. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER THE PRIME MINISTER'S
SUGGESTIONS APPEAR PRACTICAL FROM THE PRESIDENT'S POINT
OF VIEW.
PRICE

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